

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

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EXDIS TOSEC 143

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 7766 ACTION SECSTATE 6 OCT

QUOTE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 7766

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR XF IS US UR

SUBJECT: GOI CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN ATTACK TODAY

1. AT PRIME MINISTER'S URGENT REQUEST, I MET WITH HER AT HER
TEL AVIV OFFICE THIS MORNING AT 10:15. I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DCM, AMB
DINITZ, MORDECHAI GAZIT OF PM'S OFFICE AND AVRAHAM KIDRON, DIRGEN MFA
,
ALSO PRESENT.

2. MRS MEIR INITIATED CONVERSATION BY NOTING "WE MAY BE IN TROUBLE".
SHE THEN GAVE ME A REVIEW OF THE SITAUTION RE REPORTED SYRIAN AND
EGYPTIAN BUILD-UPS DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS. I NOTED THAT WE
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HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH THE IDF ON
SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND WE WERE TOLD THE SITUATION WAS NOT DANGER-
OUS. MRS MEIR SAID THAT THIS WAS AN ACCURATE EVALUATION AT THE TIME,
BUT THAT WITHIN THE LAST 12 HOURS THE SITUATION HAD BECOME VERY

SERIOUS.

ISRAEL HAD INFO FROM A NUMBER OF TOTALLY RELIABLE SOURCES THAT SYRIA AND EGYPT WERE PLANNING A COORDINATED ATTACK AGAINST ISRAEL TODAY IN THE LATE AFTERNOON.

3. IN ADDITION TO INFO RE MILITARY SITUATION GOI HAD HARD INFO THAT SOVIET DEPENDENTS AND AT LEAST SOME ADVISORS WERE BEING EVACUATED FROM SYRIA AND AEGYPT. AT FIRST, SAID MRS MEIR, THE GOI THOUGHT THE SOVIET EVACUATION FROM SYRIA MIGHT MEAN A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, BUT THIS NOW DOES NOT SEEM TO BE THE CASE SINCE A NUMBER OF SOVIET ADVISORS ARE STILL IN COUNTRY AND APPARENTLY PLANNING TO REMAIN. ALSO, GOI HAS INFO THAT SOVIET NAVAL VESSELS HAVE DEPARTED ALEXANDRIA. ISRAEL COULD ONLY SPECULATE ON REASON FOR SOVIET EXODUS, BUT ONE GOI SOURCE REPORTED THIS IS PART OF SOVIET NEGATIVE REACTION TO PLANNED EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN ATTACKS.

4. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, SAID MRS. MEIR, ISRAEL WANTED THE URGENT

HELP OF THE US IN TRYING TO HEAD OFF HOSTILITIES. SHE ASKED IF WE WOULD PASS ON TO THE SOVIETS AND EGYPTIANS THE FOLLOWING AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.

A. ISRAEL IS NOT PLANNING TO ATTACK SYRIA OR EGYPT. IT HAS DEPLOYED ITS FORCES TO PROTECT ITSELF IN CASE OF ATTACK AND, ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS IS CALLING UP "SOME RESERVES". (SHE CONFIRMED THIS IS NOT GENERAL MOBILIZATION)

B. ISRAEL IS WELL AWARE OF THE MILITARY DISPOSITIONS OF EGYPT AND SYRIA. IF THEY ATTACK, THEY WILL LOSE AS SHE HAS BEEN ASSURED THIS AM BY DEFMIN DAYAN ALTHOUGH THE ATTACKERS CAN CAUSE DAMAGE AND INFLICT CAUSUALTIES WHICH ISRAEL WISHESVWO AVOID.

5. IN ANSWER TO MY SPECIFIC QUESTION, MRS. MEIR REPLIED WITHOUT HESITATION THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT RPT NOT LAUNCH A PRE-EMPTIVE ATTACK, NOTING THAT ISRAEL WOULD SUCCESSFULLY DEFEND ITSELF IF ATTACKED, BUT EMPHASIZING THAT THE GOI WISHES TO AVOID BLOODSHED.

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6. DATT HAS BEEN BRIEFED BY IDF RE DETAILS OF MILITARY SITUATION AND IS REPORTING SEPARATELY BY IMMEDIATE CABLE.

7. PM'S OFFICE HAS JUST CALLED FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE FOR IDF: IN ANSWER TO QUESTION IDF SPOKESMAN WILL SAY: "FOLLOWING CONCENTRATION OF SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN TROOPS THE IDF HAS TAKEN DEFENSIVE MEASURES INCLUDING A CALL UP OF SOME RESERVES."

8. AMB. DINITZ WILL LEAVE FOR WASHINGTON ON FIRST AVAILABLE PLANE. HE SHOULD BE THERE TOMORROW AT LATEST.

COMMENT: I BELIEVE MRS MEIR SINCERELY WISHES TO AVOID USELESS

BLOODSHED. I TRUST WE CAN AID IN THIS WORTHY ENDEAVOR. IF POSSIBLE,
I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE SOME KIND OF REPLY TO PM WITHIN NEXT FEW
HOURS.
KEATING UNQUOTE RUSH

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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